February 1, 2025

The Boll Weevil

The boll weevil, often misspelled as "Bo Weavel," is a beetle which feeds on cotton buds and flowers. Thought to be native to Central Mexico, it migrated into the United States from Mexico in the late 19th century and had a devastating impact on the cotton industry, particularly in the Southern states. The Confederate States, already weakened economically by the Civil War, faced further hardship due to this pest. The boll weevil severely damaged the cotton crops, which were the backbone of the Southern economy, causing a significant economic downturn. This crisis forced the South to diversify its agriculture and reduce its

reliance on cotton, leading to a slow but pivotal shift in the region's agricultural practices.